

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 01396 261038Z
ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 1396

EO 11652N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PINR, GW, UK, PL
SUBJ: FRG AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO LONDON, DR. HANS HELLMUTH RUETE

REF: BONN 03296

1. AFTER MORE THAN FOUR YEARS OF CLOSE ASSOCIATION, I CAN FULLY CONFIRM THE JUDGEMENTS ABOUT HANS RUETE CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 6 AND 7 OF REF.

2. RUETE'S WARSAW ASSIGNMENT WAS ARDUOUS. HE WAS THE FIRST FULL-FLEDGED WEST GERMAN CHIEF DIPLOMATIC MISSION HERE, IN A CAPITAL WHERE THE MEMORIES OF 1939-45 ARE A LIVING THING AND NEARLY EVERY INHABITANT LOST ONE OR MORE CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE FIGHTING AND BOMBING OF 1939, THE UNDERGROUND WARFARE OF 1939-44, THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS, OR THE WARSAW UPRISING AND SUBSEQUENT REOCCUPATION OF WARSAW. THE RUETES CONSTANTLY MET WITH PERSONS WHOSE REVULSION AGAINST GERMANS WAS MORE THAN MERELY EMOTIONAL.

3. THE STRUGGLE TO REACH THE SCHMIDT-GIEREK AGREEMENT OF JULY 1975, AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, TO RATIFY IT, WAS LONG DRAWN-OUT. DURING IT, HANS RUETE WAS TREATED ON OCCA-
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 01396 261038Z

SION WITH BRUTAL RUDENESS. I MYSELF, WAS ONCE THE UNWITTING INSTRUMENT OF SUCH RUDENESS, WHEN HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KEP RUETE COOLING HIS HEELS IN AN ANTEROOM FOR HALF-AN-HOUR WHILE THEY CONCLUDED A LEISURELY DISCUSSION WITH ME.)

4. RUETE BORE ALL THIS WITH GREAT UNDERSTANDING AND

STUBBORN PERSEVERANCE. I BELIEVE HE DESERVES A VERY CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE CREDIT FOR THE CONCLUSION AND RATIFICATION OF THE SCHMIDT-GIEREK AGREEMENT. HE KEPT BEFORE THE EYES OF HIS SUPERIORS THE DESIRABILITY OF GOING THE LAST MILE TO MEET POLISH DEMANDS, WHICH MUST HAVE SEEMED ABSURD TO MANY IN BONN, BUT WHICH WERE QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE TO THOSE IN WARSAW WHO HAVE SOME CLOSER CONCEPTION OF WHAT THE POLISH PEOPLE SUFFERED IN THE WAR AND OCCUPATION AND WHAT DEEP SCARS THAT SUFFERING LEFT.

5. THE ESTEEM RUETE HAS EARNED IN THE EYES OF THE FRG GOVERNMENT BY HIS CONDUCT OF HIS MISSION HERE IS EVIDENT IN HIS NEW APPOINTMENT. THE RUETES SHOULD DO ANOTHER OUTSTANDING JOB FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN LONDON. THEY WILL BE SORELY MISSED IN WARSAW.
DAVIES

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